UNDP

UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME

Distributed on request
DP/PROJECTS/7043

ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
BURUNDI

IPF:(1987-91) $ 33 622 000
(BDI/90/006) - Soutien et Renforcement de la Faculté des Sciences Economiques et Administratives (FEAS)

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	24 April 1991
Expected duration:	Three years
Proposed executing agency:	UNDP/OPS
Government implementing agency:	University of Burundi
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$ 3 537 300 Source of funds: IPF

Project background

University level education in Burundi has still very modest proportions (less than 3,000 students), although it absorbs around 18 percent of the education budget. Compared to other Sub-Saharan countries, the enrollment ratio is low: 54 students per 100,000 inhabitants instead of 130. Post-secondary education in economics is provided by the Faculty of Economic and Administrative Sciences (FEAS) of the University of Burundi while a more vocational training program in business administration is provided by the Higher School of Commerce. In addition, the Higher Institute of Business Administration offers management and accounting courses at night to university graduates.

The FEAS has supplied Burundi's public and private sector with their higher level staff; and graduates have found easily employment corresponding to their qualifications. Given the general scarcity of highly trained professionals, there is no risk of unemployment of university graduates from the FEAS in the foreseeable future. The FEAS has benefitted from Swiss technical assistance since 1964. Although a policy of disengagement had began in 1986, the sudden withdrawal of Swiss co-operation at the end of the 1988-89 academic year was left the University in dire need of assistance.

Thus, the Government of Burundi requested UNDP emergency assistance for the 1989-90 academic year with the possibility of extension to a second project aiming at the pedagogical autonomy of the FEAS by 1994. The present project was developed with this aim during the "emergency assistance" phase which was financed by the UNDP through a subcontract with the "Institut Supérieur de Mathématiques Economiques et Appliquées". The project has been discussed with UNESCO who will be associated with the substantive evaluations. An evaluation of the ongoing activities which was undertaken in March 1991, reconfirmed the validity of the project.

1/ This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

Description of project

The long-term objective of the project is to improve the training capacity of the FEAS by strengthening its administrative, academic and research departments.

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) ensure the pedagogical autonomy of the FEAS by 1994 through the recruitment and training of Burundi nationals for teaching positions; (b) improve the administration of the FEAS to enhance the quality of teaching and to increase the number of graduates by reducing the failure rate (by 50 percent); (c) strengthen the scientific capacity of the Research Center of the Faculty (CURDES); and (d) train 15 teaching assistants by means of post-graduate studies (Diplôme des Etudes Approfondies, DEA) completed through seminars and correspondence courses so that the trainees can remain in teaching service at the Faculty. (These studies will be followed by one year fellowships at a foreign university).

Project activities will include: (a) maintaining the teaching staff scientifically updated; (b) conducting research that will provide an in-depth knowledge of Burundi economy; (c) competing along with other research institutes for consulting contracts offered by the government or international agencies; and (d) and becoming financially autonomous in 1993.

Inputs

UNDP will provide a subcontract for seven professors for 36 man-months in computer science applied to economics (1), in rural economy (2), general economics (3), and development economics (1); seven consultant professors per year for one man-month each in public administration, international economic relations, development economics, project appraisal, planning and political economy, quantitative techniques and rural economics; one 10 day/mission per year for a professor responsible for the correspondance course; three researchers per year to support CURDES; three man-months for consultancy on the Faculty's administration; three man/months for the organization of the library; one man-month for technical evaluation missions; 15 one-year thesis fellowships, 15 three-month training programs in tutoring, study tours, seminars, enrollment in DEA programs and in-service training; and the costs for the supporting equipment and educational supplies.

Financial data

	$
Personnel (evaluation)	60 000
Subcontract*	3 477 300
Total	3 537 300

(*) including over $700,000 for training.